

Voluntary Report - public distribution

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Thailand

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

MRLs in Thailand

2004

Approved by:

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Report Highlights:

Thailand basically follows the CODEX guidelines in its MRLs establishment.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

In response to FAS/HTP's action request of May 24, the following are information regarding pesticide regulations and Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for key products in Thailand:

1. Which government agencies are involved in MRL establishment and what are their responsibilities?

There are two government agencies in Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives that are involved in MRL establishment, including Department of Agriculture (DOA) and National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (NBACFS).

Department of Agriculture is in general responsible for conducting research, analysis, and establishment for MRLs. Meanwhile, NBACFS is responsible for monitoring and international negotiations on MRLs.

2. What laws and regulations guide the development and enforcement of MRLs for pesticides?

Thailand generally uses CODEX guidelines in developing and enforcing MRLs for pesticides.

3. What is the process for the establishment of MRLs?

3.1 Use the CODEX guidelines

3.2 Conduct residue data trial on field

3.3 Monitor actual residue level in MRL-established crops that are commercialized

3.4 Set up MRLs for each crop or crop group

4. How frequently is the printed copy or website listing of MRLs updated?

MRLs are listed in the printed copy and is updated from time to time, generally once a year.

5. Is there a defined regulatory process for the establishment of import MRLs?

No.

6. What residues of pesticides define the MRL? That is, is only the parent chemical measured or are specific metabolites included?

The residues of pesticides that define the MRL are mostly the same as those in the CODEX guidelines, which include both the parent chemical measured and specific metabolites.

7. Are MRLs established for crop groups, individual crops or both?

They are established for both crop groups and individual crops.

8. Does your country have a routine surveillance/testing program for pesticide residues in imported foods? If so, please describe it, i.e., number of samples tested, how priorities are identified, are results made available, sampling and testing procedures, etc.

Yes, it does. At ports, about one kilogram of imported foods or produces is collected for testing. According to DOA, the priorities are identified by different factors, such as country of origin, seasonality, past residue records, importing company, etc. The results are not available for public.

9. Does your country accept Codex MRLs? If not, do Codex MRLs play any role?

Yes, very much.

10. What actions are taken when residues are found above the MRL?

In case of imported foods or produces, the shipment will be confiscated or returned to the exporting country.

11. Are there default pesticide enforcement levels? What are they?

Yes, there are. The DOA official does not indicate the levels of default pesticide enforcement, but says that this default enforcement mainly happens when some banned pesticides are illegally used in the field.

12. Provide the name, office telephone and email address of a pertinent government official for user contact purposes.

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End of Report.